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DATE: MAY 26, 2009

TO: Department of Justice, Registration Unit

FAX NUMBER: (202) 514-2836

FROM: Qorvis Communications, LLC. (202) 496-1000

PAGE COUNT: 3 – (Including Cover Page)

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**THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 4, 2009**

President Obama Announces Intent to Nominate Key Administration Posts

Brigadier General James B. Smith, Nominee for Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

Brigadier General Smith (USAF, Ret.) is International Business Development Executive, Raytheon Integrated Defense Systems. Previous assignments at Raytheon include Vice President of Government Business in Wichita, Kansas, and Vice President of Precision Engagement in Tucson, Arizona. Prior to joining Raytheon, he was director of Navy C2 programs for Lockheed Martin Mission Systems. Gen. Smith served as deputy commander at the Joint Warfighting Center of the U.S. Joint Forces Command in Suffolk, Virginia, where he was responsible for managing the joint force exercise and training development program. General Smith's distinguished aviation career includes combat sorties during Desert Storm. He commanded the 94th Tactical Fighter Squadron and 325th Operations Group. He served as the CSAF chair at the National War College and as Vice Director of Operations for the North American Air Defense Command. Gen. Smith previously served as commander of the 18th Wing at Kadena Air Base in Japan. He holds a Bachelor's degree in military history from the U.S. Air Force Academy and a Master's degree in history from Indiana University. Gen. Smith is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College, the Air Command and Staff College and the National War College.

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